

RI Transportation *Digest*

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Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter



PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE: Families of those who lost their lives working in RIDOT work zones gathered with RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E., left, and Governor Donald L.

Carcieri, second from left, to hear a prayer by Dr. Bill Trench, pastor of the United Methodist Church in East Greenwich. The gathering marked the arrival of a national traveling work zone memorial in Rhode Island.

Governor, Director pay tribute to lives lost in work zones

Governor Donald L. Carcieri joined Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Director James R. Capaldi, P.E. in late March to pay tribute to Rhode Islanders who gave their lives in work zones. A recognition ceremony with family survivors was held in the Rhode Island Department of Administration (RIDOA) Atrium.

The ceremony included a national traveling exhibit and work zone memorial titled, "Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road" which remained on display through April 1, just before the start of the Rhode Island construction season. The Memorial includes all the names of those who lost their lives in work zones across the country.

Maria Caranci, RIDOT's Capitol Police Officer



By Alison Natale

RIDOT staff know Maria Caranci as the friendly Capitol Police Officer who greets both staff and visitors as they walk in the doors of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. For 15 years, Officer Caranci has worked for the Capitol Police force, being stationed throughout the many state buildings.

Officer Caranci at RIDOT

See OFFICER, page 3

"Today we honor the memory of those who have lost their lives while working on our roads. We remember their devotion to public service, and we reflect upon their many contributions to enhancing our state's infrastructure," said Carcieri. "Since 1968 we have needlessly lost six Rhode Islanders

See WORK ZONE MEMORIAL, page 3

Sick leave bank helps!

By Allison Teixeira

Since 2001, 30 RIDOT employees have received aid from two sick leave banks established by local employee unions. The banks, made up of time donated by employees each year, are in place to assist employees who have a catastrophic illness or injury and have exhausted all their accrued time.

According to Martha Boffa, an Administrative Officer in Payroll, to receive aid from one of the sick banks, a person must have contributed to the bank. Union members and non-union employees are welcome to participate in the program. Once the participating employee has used up all of his or her sick, vacation, and personal time, he or she can go to the union and fill out a request form, said Boffa. The request is then reviewed by the Sick Leave Bank Committee and either granted or denied.

Employees are asked to contribute to the sick leave banks every January. Those who are assigned to a 40 hour workweek

See SICK LEAVE BANK, page 3

Capaldi, Amerault honored at SECA Ceremony

RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi and RIDOT Administrative Assistant Suzanne Amerault were honored at the Annual State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA) Awards Ceremony and Thank You Luncheon at the Providence Marriott for their roles in making the 2004 SECA campaign such a success.

In Capaldi's last official role as SECA Campaign Chairman, he joined with Governor Donald Carcieri to present 21 awards to state agencies and individuals who had gone above and beyond to contribute to the campaign. This year a total of \$826,091 was raised.

Capaldi told the group, "In my experience as SECA Chairman, I was overwhelmed by the dedication and generosity people have, how much they truly care for those who are less fortunate."

He also talked about creating the campaign video to help promote SECA and encourage people to give.

"One memory I have was the difficulty and fun of creating the campaign video which told a children's story about an elephant and monkeys helping those in need," said Capaldi. "I

had to completely memorize three paragraphs and perform it live. Although it took many takes, I finally did it because I didn't give up. Today we're honoring others who also didn't give up on getting people to help those in need, and who by doing so have achieved great things."

Amerault spearheaded the campaign at RIDOT, and kicked off and ran SECA campaigns for the Governor's Office, and for the first time in history, the General Assembly. She was honored with a special award known as the Chairman Citation, presented, "for her efforts on behalf of the RIDOT campaign and recognition for all that she has done to help further the overall success of SECA."

At the end of the event, Capaldi relinquished his title to next year's SECA Campaign Chair, Adelita Orefice, Director, Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. Capaldi was honored for his, "outstanding leader-



AWARD WINNERS RIDOT Director James Capaldi, P.E., left, and RIDOT Administrative Assistant Suzanne Amerault, center, pose with Governor Donald L. Carcieri, right, for photos at the Annual SECA Awards Ceremony and Thank You Luncheon.

ship, dedication, and loyalty" as 2004 Campaign Chairman with a tribute award presented by Marianna Zotos, SECA Director, United Way of Rhode Island.

RIDOT Chief Public Affairs Officer presents program on launching 511

RIDOT's Chief Public Affairs Officer, Dana Alexander Nolfé, was asked to present the Department's approach to launching 511 in the Ocean State a conference held in Austin, Texas in early April. The conference, "Marketing 511: A Workshop For Current and Future Deployers" discussed the challenges, expectations, and effectiveness of having a 511 system.

During Nolfé's section of the program, "Marketing New 511 Systems: Campaigns of 2004 and 2005" she discussed a brief history of 511, preparing media materials and public information for the Rhode Island launch, and the launch itself on March 9, 2005.

RIDOT had had the most recent launch of the traveler information system. The fact that the start-up of 511 was covered by over ten Rhode Island media outlets: Channels 6, 10 and 12, five radio stations, The Providence Journal, *projo.com*, and several local newspapers was very impressive to the other states in attendance.

"The 511 system has joined 411 and 911 as important numbers everyone needs to know," said Nolfé. "Thousands of people have called in already and we expect this service to be a valuable one for years to come."



RIDOT'S LAUNCHING of 511 services in March was probably the only one in the nation that featured "511" cookies. They were a big hit with the media.

Work Zone Memorial

(Continued from Page 1)

within road construction or maintenance work zones. We share this ceremony to preserve the memories of loved ones we have lost, and we must continue to do all that we can to see

Sick Leave bank

(Continued from Page 1)

must donate eight hours of sick time and those who are assigned to a 35 hour work week must donate 7 hours of sick time, said Boffa. Any unused sick leave remaining at the end of the calendar year is not carried over.

In 2005, 289 RIDOT employees contributed to the local 400 International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) sick leave bank for a total of 2,137 hours. Additionally, 35 RIDOT employees contributed to the local 808 Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) sick leave bank for a total of 261 hours. Similar sick leave programs are run throughout the state government at individual departments.

Officer Caranci is now on duty at Two Capitol Hill

(Continued from Page 1)

Prior to becoming a Police Officer, Caranci worked as a typist and clerk at the Family and Juvenile court house in Providence. After being there for a little over three years, she decided she needed a change and decided to attend the police academy. Caranci went through a rigorous training period at the Capitol Police Academy, which is run by the Rhode Island State Police.

When asked about going through the Academy, Caranci remarked, "It was very challenging. I worked hard and appreciate having this job. I feel that I earned it." Having successfully completed the certification process, Caranci began her job as an officer working the night shift at various state buildings.

"Working nights was difficult but when I entered the force there were no openings for day shifts, so I had to wait for one to open up," said Officer Caranci. After five years, a position opened up and she was given a day shift.

that this doesn't happen again."

Each year, 900 people are killed nationally in roadway work zone accidents, including roadway workers, law enforcement officers and public safety officials. Motorists passengers, including children, also die in disproportionate numbers within work zones.

Capaldi explained, "Through moments like this, and the upcoming National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (April 3 - 9), we remind everyone how important it is to slow down in work zones."

The Work Zone Memorial was organized by the American Traffic Safety Services Association, a national group representing the roadway safety construction industry. Local sponsors who covered the cost of transporting the exhibit were Construction Industries of Rhode Island, and Laborers International Union of North America. Floral Designs by LiRog of Providence donated roses for the ceremony, which were given to the members of the families of the RIDOT workers who had died in work zones.

"It is an interesting job," she said. "There are a lot of ups and downs but I get to deal with people and I like that." Caranci considers herself a good listener and enjoys talking to people. Overall, she feels that she is here to help the public, which can be achieved by just saying hello or asking someone how their day is going. "I enjoy talking to people. When I was at the court house, a lot of times people would talk to me as they were entering or leaving a trial and I would have to talk them out of their anger," she reminisced. "It's all part of the job."

And it is definitely a job she loves. Caranci said she enjoys working at the Department of Transportation because she has gotten the chance to really get to know people. "People are very friendly here," she said. Her main job at the DOT is the overall safety and security of building and its employees. Caranci is responsible for checking employees and visitors in and out of the building and keeping everyone safe in the process.



ON DUTY IN IRAQ: RIDOT Resident Engineer George Ley, currently on duty in Iraq with the Rhode Island National Guard, where he's known as Major George Ley. (Thanks to the Lt. Colonel Mathies Santos of the Rhode Island National Guard for the photograph.)

Applications are being considered for RIDOT Scholarships

The application period for RIDOT's Memorial Scholarship program closed June 1. Children of RIDOT employees entering or continuing their college, technical or trade school education in the fall of 2005, were eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Applicants submitted a one page essay with name, address, phone number, e-mail, parent(s) name(s) and which RIDOT division he/she works for, school and educational focus, along with any community service activities.

Entries were sent to Despina Metakos, President of the RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarships will be awarded at the annual golf tournament, Friday July 29, at Triggs Golf course, in Providence.

Scholarship recipients must be willing to volunteer for the day. If they are unable to do so, a parent may volunteer in their place, and this must be stated in the student's essay. Parents of recipients are invited to attend the banquet at 2:30 pm, but must RSVP by July 10, 2005.

Wishing them a happy retirement!



SAYING GOODBYE: The RIDOT Office of Highway Safety staff held a party in late April to celebrate 16 years of service by Peggy Lopes, right, who retired. Left to right, Jim Barden, Sharon Bazor, Kathy Smith, and Janis Loiselle, OHS Chief, threw a lunchtime buffet in her honor.



HE LEFT WITH A SMILE: Paul Dagostino, left, who retired from RIDOT Legal Services this winter, was thrilled with the decorative “DAG” license plate presented to him by John Affleck, RIDOT Chief Legal Affairs Officer.

Congratulations Leroy Archibald

Leroy Archibald, of RIDOT Real Estate/Property Management, was presented with the 2005 Frank Florio Memorial Award, “in recognition of his unselfish dedication to Rhode Island Girls’ Basketball in its pursuit of excellence on and off the court” by the organization’s board. The presentation took place April 1 at the organization’s 2005 Banquet and Awards at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick.

Daffodil Campaign a success

The American Cancer Society’s Daffodil Days campaign at RIDOT this spring brought in \$1,624 in contributions. The total was ranked 12th of the 24 Rhode Island participating organizations. Josephine Taylor-Prata of the RIDOT Policy/Planning Office was the coordinator for RIDOT’s successful effort.

She thanked all those who contributed and offered a, “special thank you” to those who worked on the campaign this year. In addition to Taylor-Prata, those working on the campaign were Diane Badorek, Dorothy Bianchi, Elaine Bowie, Deborah Cameron, Cammie Corrente, Peggy Hebert, Pamela Moscarelli, Mary Lee Newman, Linda Pemantell, Sue Shanley Szala, Anita Tabellario, and Elaine Ventura.

New hires and retirees

New hires this winter and spring at the Department of Transportation included Lisa M. Hickey and William G. Grzebien in Audit & Final Review; Linda L. Burke-Bureau in Audits; Richelieu Trinity in Construction; John W. Preiss, Sohghap Taing, and Coral E. Siligato in Design; Alcides B. Franco and Joseph K. Karweh in Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Stephen L. Corey in MIS; and John E. Glynn and Grace J. Smith in Real Estate.

Retirees this winter and spring included Patricia Hagen-Golderesi and Lenore J. Duffy of Construction; Carol A. Adams of Design; William Whelan, Robert W. Gilbert and Philip A. Fielding of Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Marguerite M. Lopes of Highway Safety; Paul R. D’Agostino of Legal; Donna M. LaFazia of Real Estate; and John E. Brownell of Research & Technology.

Golf Tournament scheduled

The 10th Annual RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, July 29, at Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence. The Scramble tournament will begin at 9 am. The fee for the Tournament is \$150 per person with all proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund.

Sponsorships are also available for \$500, \$1000 and \$1500. Contact Despina Metakos for more information at 401-222-2694 ext 4205 or via e-mail at dmetakos@dot.state.ri.us.

Flu Shot



ROLLING UP THEIR SLEEVES: Francis Chatelle, above, and Dean Pacia, below, offered their left arms at the flu shot inoculation clinic at RIDOT's Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters in late winter. The clinic had been postponed from the fall due to vaccine shortage.



RIDOT PHOTOGRAPHER Chuck Aube, second from left, is seen at a Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Department Open House, where his photo on the theme "Building Bridges" was officially announced as part of the Hospital's permanent art collection. With Aube are, left, his wife Elaine, and at right his parents Charles and Mary Aube.

Route 10 bridge photo selected for RI Hospital Emergency Department permanent art collection

Late last fall, Rhode Island Hospital issued a "Call for Artists" to submit original artwork which symbolized a theme of "building bridges." Ultimately, six pieces of artwork would be selected to hang in the hospital's new emergency department as part of its permanent collection.

The hospital's new emergency department is seen as a "bridge" between the hospital and the community. The competition's "building bridges" theme was a natural for RIDOT, which builds most of Rhode Island's 1,000-plus bridges.

RIDOT Construction Photographer Chuck Aube responded enthusiastically.

He selected several of his photos of construction on RIDOT bridges for submission.

In late February, Aube and his family were invited to an Open House and Preview Tour at the new emergency department. Paula Most, Arts Coordinator for the hospital, was on hand to unveil the artwork selected.

Aube's submission was a photo of a construction worker holding together two concrete beams to be connected for the new Route 10 bridges over the Cranston Viaduct.

Aube's parents, Charles and Mary, as well as his wife Elaine, beamed with pride as his artwork was introduced.

URI's Summer Transportation Institute open for young students

The URI Transportation Center Summer Transportation Institute can be lots of fun! Children entering grades 7-9 can participate in the Institute's two, two week sessions during July 11-22 and August 1-12.

A total of 40 students will be chosen for the nationally recognized program. Selections will be based upon a formal

application, an essay, school grades (especially math and science), family support and an interview.

There is no fee for the Institute, but each of the two sessions has only 20 openings. Call Tory Perrotta at (401) 874-7075 or download an application for the Summer Institute at www.uritc.uri.edu



Chafee secures \$13 million to help demolish old Jamestown Bridge

U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced that he has secured \$8 million in federal funds, \$5 million in FY04 and \$3 million in FY05 to assist with the demolition of the old Jamestown bridge. Chafee announced the funds while standing on the bridge with Edmund Parker and Peter Healey of RIDOT, along with state and local officials. Chafee said "Removal of this bridge has been a top priority of mine."

RIDOT is expected to advertise for bids early this summer. The bulk of the bridge demolition work is expected to begin in the Spring of 2006.

JAMESTOWN BRIDGE DEMOLITION: Senator Lincoln Chafee with RIDOT Chief Engineer Edmund Parker, P.E., hold a big check that will go toward the demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge.

The Pet Corner



'SISTER' AND little brother: Donna Francisco adopted a puppy brother of Al Tarantino's and Valerie Andreozzi's. Although they named the puppy Sammy, when Donna brought him home, her mother promptly decided to refer to them as brother and sister.



LOOKS LIKE A TWIN: Valerie Andreozzi of RIDOT Financial Management/Federal Programs has a new addition to her family, and her name is Sheba. Sheba is the sister of Donna Francisco's and Al Tarantino's puppies.

IGUANAS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND, at least in Central America, above. Barry Higgins of RIDOT Administrative Services took this photo on the island of Roatan, which is off the coast of Honduras. Higgins, his brother and a couple of friends traveled to Central America to do some rafting, volcano climbing, trekking, and riding down zip lines, which are cables and trolleys located above the cloud forests and are, "very high and very scary," says Higgins.

“Ride with PRide” campaign is unveiled

RIDOT marked the arrival of spring by announcing “Ride with PRide,” a new anti-litter campaign encouraging Rhode Islanders to take pride in cleaner roads by not littering.

“RIDOT works hard every day picking up the trash on our roadways, and unfortunately there is a lot of it,” said Director Capaldi. “We need people to take pride in Rhode Island and help us keep the State clean.”

New equipment purchased for the “Ride with PRide” campaign cost \$36,556 and includes four push mowers, eight walk-behind push mowers, and four trailers. Funding came from RIDOT’s Division of Highway and Bridge Maintenance operating budget. The program will also feature 135 signs to be posted along major Rhode Island highways asking motorists to properly dispose of trash.

Statistics from early spring showed that a daily average of 100 inmates picked up a total of 13,857 bags of litter, that is 533 bags per day or 60 bags per crew per day. The sweep-

ing program, begun March 21, had swept over 600 miles of roadway by April 22, focusing on the major interstates of 95, 195 and 295.

The event also sought to heighten awareness of the Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot programs. There are currently 23 sponsors for the Adopt-a-Highway program, but 88 segments are available to be adopted.

THE ALAMO, right, is one of the new pieces of equipment purchased for the clean-up effort.



Searching for a kidney donor

Ray Healey of RIDOT Construction is looking for a kidney donor for his 31 year old son. Thomas had a successful kidney transplant in 1990, but in the summer of 2004, that kidney gave out and then his mother gave him one of hers.

“Unfortunately on the night of the surgery Thomas had a rapid drop in blood pressure which damaged the new kidney,” Ray Healey said. Doctors tried to get the new kidney to work, he said, but the damage was done, and ultimately the new kidney had to be removed.

Thomas Healey has been on dialysis three times a week since August 2004. Ray, looking for another donor, says that Thomas’ blood type is B positive, “but a donor doesn’t have to have the same blood type.”

If you’d like to know if you’d be a good match for Thomas Healey, call Bette Hopkins in Rhode Island Hospital’s Transplant Program at 444-3285, or check out the program online at <http://www.lifespan.org/services/kidney/donor/default.htm>



A SPECIAL DONATION: At the RIDOT Annual Blood Drive, Jim Garcia, of RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance’s Portsmouth Facility is in the process of an “automated blood collection.” Kathleen Connolly of the Rhode Island Blood Center explains that he is donating double red cells, two pints at once. As the blood goes into the machine, it spins the blood and the donor receives back his plasma and platelets. The process takes a little longer than the normal donation, and instead of being eligible to donate again in 56 days, the donor must wait 112 days. The RIDOT Blood Drive collected 55 pints of blood.

Save the date for the Providence Engineering Society’s Second Annual golf outing and dinner

The Providence Engineering Society will hold its Second Annual Golfing Outing and Affiliates Dinner on Monday, October 3 at the Wentworth Hills Golf and Country Club on Bow Street in Plainville, Massachusetts. Go to www.wentworthhillsgolf.com for directions and to take a look at the course. More information on the outing and dinner will be available soon.

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Contributors to this edition include Dana Alexander Nolf, Heidi Cote, Despina Metakos, Pat Piccoli, and Cindy Digiglio, Mark Felag and Cynthia Levesque.

***They say a picture is worth
a thousand words....***



ONLY IN RHODE ISLAND? MAKE THAT HAWAII. Dana Nolfie of RIDOT Communications took this photo of a roadway warning, "Drive Carefully, Unimproved Road Ahead." "They actually tell you to take it to get to the beach and park," she said, adding, "It's open to four wheel drives only, and is more like being on an amusement park ride than on a road."



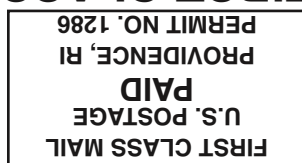
ARE THOSE ELEPHANTS I SEE? Unplanned incidents, such as accidents, and special events happen at any time during the day or night, but the view above was a big surprise for RIDOT's TMC bridge in early April. Who would have thought that circus elephants parading in downtown Providence would be another reason for ITS incident notification procedures to be deployed?

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